

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16, 19, and 21-25 were presented for examination. The final Office Action dated May 19, 2008 rejects claims 1-9 and 25 and allows claims 11-13, 16, 19, and 21-24.

This paper cancels claims 1-9 and 25. Applicant is not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-9 and 25 prior to this Amendment is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. Claims 1-9 and 25 were canceled in this Amendment solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the application. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue claims as presented prior to this Amendment, including the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-9 and 25, and additional claims in one or more continuing applications.

Claims 11-13, 16, 19, and 21-24 remain pending in the application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takase (U.S. Patent No. 5,042,027) in view of Kusumoto (7,289,515). The Office Action also rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takase and Kusumoto, as applied to claim 1, and further in view of applicant's admitted prior art "AAPA". In view of the cancellation of these claims, applicant submits that the rejections are moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that this paper provides a response for all pending claims. Any absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, comment, purported admission of prior art, taking of "official notice", or reliance on

“common sense” or on KSR, however, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, comment, purported admission of prior art, taking of “official notice”, or reliance on “common sense” or KSR. In addition, because the arguments made above are not exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims that have not been expressed.

In view of the amendments and arguments made herein, applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests early favorable action by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the applicant’s representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-0932.

Respectfully submitted,

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